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IDENTITY OF THE MOTH  
*ONCOCNEMIS SEMICOLLARIS* J. B. SMITH

WITH NOTES AND DISTRIBUTION  
(LEPIDOPTERA: NOCTUIDAE)

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SINCE THE ORIGINAL DESCRIPTION of *Oncocnemis semicollaris* J. B. Smith in 1909, the name has been a mystery. Some years ago specimens of an unknown *Oncocnemis* sp., near *figurata* Harvey, began accumulating in the Bauer-Buckett collection (now in the collection of the Entomology Department, University of California, Davis). In recent years additional specimens were received from Mr. Ken Goeden of the Oregon State Department of Agriculture, Salem, Oregon.

Through the courtesy of Mr. Lloyd M. Martin, then of the Los Angeles County Museum of Natural History, a picture of the type specimen of *O. semicollaris* was examined and compared to the unknown specimens; in addition I had notes concerning the type specimen I had drawn up while in New York in 1964. The type, contained in the American Museum of Natural History, New York, is in satisfactory condition and this photograph, in addition to the notes, were adequate to determine the identity of this heretofore unidentified *Oncocnemis*. The type specimen contains four labels: "Peachland, B.C. 8-VII-07, J. B. Wallis," "J. B. Smith Collection, Rutgers," "*Oncocnemis semi-collaris*, Type Sm." and "43." The hand written type label was one of Smith's typical red bordered labels.

As with many species of *Oncocnemis*, *O. semicollaris* is fairly widespread in western North America, ranging from British Columbia south to eastern central California (see distribution map, fig. 1).



Fig. 1.—Distribution map depicting the known distribution of *O. semi-*

*O. semicollaris* is in the *figurata* group of the genus and is most closely related to *figurata* itself. This species has been confused with *figurata* in collections, but *semicollaris* can be readily distinguished by the yellowish-brown subterminal-terminal areas of the primaries, the strongly contrasting bicolor collar (which is basally black, remainder white), and the male genitalia (see figs. 4 and 5). On the vesica of the aedeagus, the band of spinules is in two distinct groups in *semicollaris*, whereas in *figurata* it is continuous. In addition, the costal and inner margins of the valvae in *semicollaris* are not parallel as in *figurata*, but rather are basally divergent, therefore giving the valvae a somewhat broadened basal appearance. The two species occur sympatrically over the range where *semicollaris* occurs. As far as is presently known, *figurata* is the more widely spread of the two species.

*Oncocnemis semicollaris* J. B. Smith, 1909. *J. New York Entomol. Soc.* 17 (2):50-61. Barnes and McDunnough, 1917, Check list, p. 56; Draudt, 1923, *Macrolepidoptera of the World*, 7:184; McDunnough, 1938, *Mem. So. California Acad. Sci.*, 1:80; Rindge, 1955, *Bull. Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist.*, 106 (2):130.

Male: Head with vertex clothed in blackish-brown elongate scales and hairs; frons clothed in brown elongate scales; palpi exterolaterally clothed in brown scales and hairs, basal segment lightest in color; mesally clothed in light brown scales; antennae with scape and pedicel clothed in dark brown scales, flagellomeres dorsally clothed in brown scales, ventrally minutely ciliate. Thorax with collar basally dark brownish-black (this color extending ventrally around compound eyes), thence elongate scales brown, apical portion pure white (however collar appearing bicolor, black and white); tegulae clothed in greyish elongate scales and hairs; ventral surface clothed in dirty whitish elongate, simple hairs; legs with femora and tibiae clothed in brownish and light brownish scales and hairs; fore-tibial claw slightly bifurcate; tarsi uniformly light brown. Primaries dorsally with ground color greyish to just past transverse posterior line, thence blending into a yellowish-brown; basal line represented costally in black, thence wanting; transverse anterior and transverse posterior lines with median dash as in figs. 2 and 3, black; black dash present, prominent on  $M_1$  from median area to terminal area (see figs. 2 and 3); veins in terminal area lightly outlined in black; fringes brown; ventral surface brown; transverse posterior line costally represented in black thence fading out. Secondaries dorsally a dirty white with sprinkling of brown scales; veins outlined in brown;



2



3

Fig. 2.—*O. semicollaris*, male. Johnsville, Plumas Co., California, 27 July 1964 (H. J. Pini).

Fig. 3.—*O. semicollaris*, female. John Day, Grant Co., Oregon, 29 July 1963 (H. J. Pini).



Fig. 4.—*O. semicollaris*, male genitalia, minus aedeagus. Salem, Marion Co., Oregon, 28 June 1960, Bauer-Buckett slide no. 69B18-3, (K. Goeden).

Fig. 5.—*O. semicollaris*, aedeagus. Same data as fig. 4.

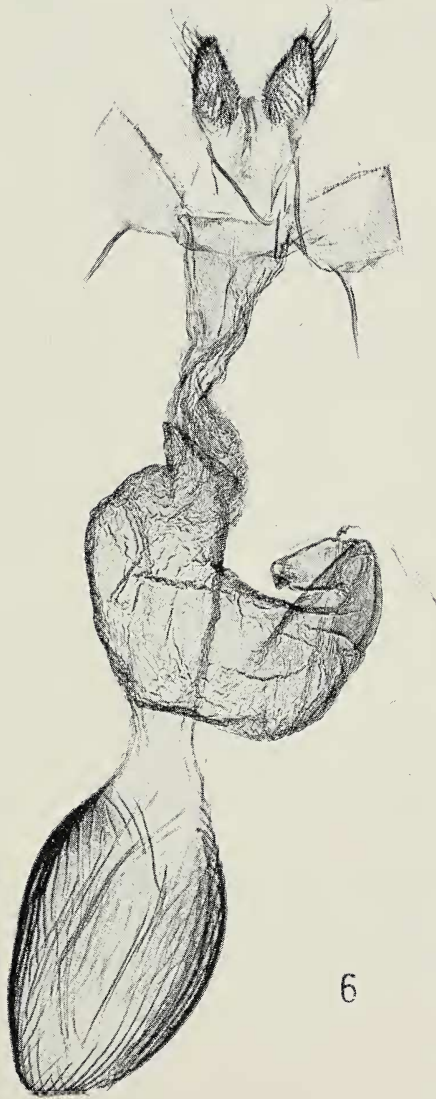


Fig. 6.—*O. semicollaris*, female genitalia. Johnsville, Plumas Co., California,

discal lunule faint, brown; terminal area shaded in brown; fringes basally brown, apically white; ventral surface with ground color as in dorsal surface; discal lunule faint, brown; medial band faint, brown; fringes as in dorsal surface. Abdomen clothed in brownish and whitish scales and hairs. Greatest expanse of forewing 14mm-15mm. Genitalia as in figs. 4 and 5. Female: As in male, except secondaries dorsally brown. Greatest expanse of forewing 14mm-15mm. Genitalia as in fig. 6.

### SPECIMENS EXAMINED

British Columbia: Holotype female, Peachland, 8 July 1907 (J. B. Wallis). Oregon: 2 males, Salem, Marion Co., 27-28 June 1960, ex black light trap (K. Goeden); 3 males, Salem, Marion Co., 11 June-9 July 1959, 1960 (Harold Foster); 10 males, Aumsville, Marion Co., June-July 1963-1965 (K. Goeden); 1 male, 1 female, John Day, Grant Co., July, 1962, 1964 (K. Goeden); 1 male, Eugene, Lane Co., 30 June 1961 (K. Goeden); 1 male, Gold Hill, Jackson Co., 2 July 1965 (V. D. Roth). California: 1 male, Hat Creek, Shasta Co., 12 June 1960 (F. W. Stehr); 5 males, 3 females, Johnsville, Plumas Co., June-September 1964-1967 (Helena J. Pini).

I would like to extend my appreciation to those persons who cooperated by providing facilities while at their respective institutions, and especially to Mr. Ken Goeden and to Mrs. Helena Pini for providing the majority of specimens for study.

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